(a) whether, out of development schemes run by Government, those schemes have been identified whose performance is not satisfactory;

(b) if so, the names of those schemes and the average amount being spent annually on those schemes during the last five years; and

(c) the decision taken by Government regarding further continuity of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) Plan Schemes are discontinued on the basis of Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) exercise and rationalization of Plan Schemes during the course of a Plan. The primary purpose of ZBB exercise is to ensure convergence, efficiency and efficacy of schemes according to Plan priorities and targets and also the use of available resources in the most judicious and economically efficient manner. Such an exercise is done regularly.

Reports from National Knowledge Commission

†1878. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of reports Government have received from the Knowledge Commission, so far;

(b) the number of recommendations that have been made by the Knowledge Comission so far alongwith details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to implement these recommendations; and

(d) by when all recommendations would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has submitted eleven reports to the Prime Minister.

(b) The recommendations of the NKC relate to building excellence in the area of knowledge to meet the knowledge challenges of the 21st century

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and increase India' competitive edge in the field of Knowledge. A list of the recommendations is given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The reports have been forwarded to the concerned Ministries/ Departments in the Government of India for their comments.

Statement

Recommendations of NKC

The National Knowledge Commission submits its recommendations in the form of letters to the Prime Minister on specific issues under its mandate. So far NKC has submitted 11 sets of recommendations as follows:

1. e-Governance (26 January 2006)

*Re-engineer government processes first, to change our basic governance pattern for simplicity, transparency, productivity and efficiency.

*Develop common standards and deploy common platform/infrastructure for e-governance.

*Select 10 to 20 important services that make a critical difference, simplify them and offer then as web-based services.

*Begin all new national programmes (like Bharat Nirman, Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, etc.) with well-engineered e-governance implementation and web interface.

2. Translation (1 September 2006)

*Provide impetus for developing translation as an industry

*Establish a store-house of information on all aspects of translation involving Indian languages

*Promote printed as well as virtual publication of translation studies

*Create and maintain various tools for translation, encourage machine translation

*Provide quality training and education for translators

*Translate pedagogic materials at all level specifically in natural and social sciences

*Project Indian languages and literatures through high-quality translation

*Set up a national web portal on translation

*Organize Annual National Conferences on Translation

*Promote book launches, festivals, fellowships and prizes etc.

*Set up a Mission on Translation for this purpose

3. Language (20 October 2006)

*Introduce English, along with the first language starting from Class I in school

*Modify pedagogy of language learning/teaching reducing disproportionate emphasis on grammar and rules

*Train the nearly four million school teachers all over the country, regardless of their subject expertise, especially at the primary level, to improve their proficiency in English through vacation training programmes or other short-term courses.

*Induct graduates with high proficiency in English and good communication skills without formal teacher-training qualifications through an appropriate procedure

*Develop pedagogically sound English textbooks for every level, from Class I to XII. These should be used as models by states.

*Create langauge learning opportunities inside and outside the class room using all available media-audio-visual, print etc.

4. Right to Education (23 October 2006)

*A legislation on Right to Education must be enforced by the central government following upon the commitment made in the Constitutional Amendment Article 21A

*There must be financial provision in the central legislation, requiring the central government to provide the bulk of the additional funds required to ensure the Right to Education

*The responsibility of the Governmetn, at different levels, must be recognized and made justiciable

5. National Science and Social Science Foundation (28 November 2006)

*Set up a National Science and Social Science Foundation (NS3F) which will look at all knowledge as one seamless entity

*The objectives of the NS3F would include:

—suggest policy initiatives to make India a leader in the creation and use of new knowledge in all areas of natural, physical, agricultural, health, and social sciences, with emphasis on those areas which cut across traditional disciplines

—ensure that science and technology are maximally used for betterment of the lives of our people

6. Higher Education (29 November 2006)

*Expand massively to around 1500 universities nationwide, that would enable India to attain a gross enrolment ratio of at least 15 per cent by 2015

*Establish an Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education

*Increase public spending and diversify sources of financing

*Establish 50 National Universities as multi disciplinary exemplars whose admissions would be on an all India basis

*Reform existing universities to ensure frequent curricula revisions, introduce course credit system, enhance reliance on internal assessment, encourage research, reform governance etc.

*Restructure the system of affiliated undergraduate colleges

*Promote enhanced quality through stringent information disclosure norms, upgradation of infrastructure, salary differentials etc.

*Ensure access for all deserving students through well funded scholarships and affirmative action that take into account multi dimensionality of deprivation

7. Vocational Education (1 December 2006)

*Place Vocational Education entirely under the Ministry of Human Resource Development

*Increase the flexibility of vocational education within the mainstream education system

*Quantify and monitor the impact of vocation eduction

*Increase resource allocation to vocational education

*Expand capacity through innovative delivery models

*Enhance the training options available for the unorganized and informal sector

*Ensure a robust regulatory and accreditation framework

*Ensure proper certification

*Undertake a re-branding exercise

8. Libraries (7 December 2006)

*Set up a National Commission on Libraries

*Prepare a National Census of all Libraries

*Revamp Library Information Science (LIS) Education, Training and Research facilities

*Re-assess staffing of libraries

*Set up a Central Library Fund

*Modernize library management, encourage greater community participation in library management

*Promote Information Communication Technology (ICT) applications in all libraries

*Facilitate donation and maintenance of private collections

*Encourage Public Private Partnerships in LIS development

9. Knowledge Network (21 December 2006)

•Interconnect all our knowledge institutions in various fields, throughout the country, through an electronic digital broadband network with adequate capabilities (minimum access speed of 100mbps or more) to encourage sharing of resources and collaborative research

*To begin with, existing commercial networks may be utilized, eventually sliding into a hybrid network with a central Core of a relatively few nodes, and an outer network constituted by practically each one of the other operators' network

*The network will be based on Internet Protocol, Multi-Packet Labeled Services technology

*One time capital support to be given to user institutions to set up Fast Ethernet LAN

*A Special Purpose Vehicle consisting of major stakeholders should manage the day to day working

*The proposal has been accepted by the Government and is being taken forward in the next budget cycle

10. Portals (9 January 2007)

*Create national web based portals for basic needs on certain key sectors such as Water, Energy, Environment, Education, Food, Health, Agriculture, Employment, Citizen Rights etc.

*A consortium consisting of representatives from a wide range of stakeholders from the sector should own and manage the portal

*Provide access to government held data

*Encourage collaborative funding

*Portals on Water and Energy have been developed

*Water Portal has been developed by Arghyam Trust Bangalore, & the Energy Portal developed by the Energy Research institute Delhi

11. Legislative framework for public funded research (16 January 2007)

*Enact a legislation that would give universities and research institutions ownership and patent rights over inventions arising out of government funded research thereby creating an enabling environment for commercialization of such inventions through licensing arrangements where inventors would also be allowed to receive a share of the royalty

*The proposed enactment should incorporate important safeguards for exceptional circumstances where the government could be given 'march in rights' to protect public good.

Report of NSSO

1879. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Sample Suvey Organisation report entitled "Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2004-05" revealed that Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh remain the poorest States in the country in terms of Monthly Per Capita Consumer Expenditure of rural population compared with 30 per cent at the all India level, the people in the States living below the MPCE level of Rs. 365/- which is Rs. 12 a day;

(b) if so, the other main points of the survey report; and

(c) the steps being considered to improve the standard of rural people in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Based on the percentage of rural population below specified levels of monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) given in the Report No. 508(61/1.0/1), "Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2004-2005", of NSS 61st Round (July 2004 – June 2005) brought out by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, the per capita consumption expenditure of 29.13% of the rural population in the country is estimated as less than Rs. 12.00 (Rs. 360/– per month) per day. According to the above report of the NSSO, 55.96% of the rural population in Orissa, 53.33% in Chhattisgarh, 45.47% in Madhya Pradesh, 44.13% in Bihar, 44.22% in Jharkhand and 31.79% in Uttar Pradesh have per capita consumption expenditure less than Rs. 12 per day.

(b) The other main points of the above survey report are:

(i) Average monthly per capita consumer expenditure (MPCE) in 2004-05 was Rs. 559 in rural India and Rs. 1052 in urban India.